

Pet Expo, p.9



Pride Fest, p.12

Jazz Festival Offers Wide Array Of Music in Roosevelt Center

by Peter Reppert

The Jazz Festival returns to Roosevelt Center on Saturday, June 25, with local musicians playing a broad spectrum of styles.

Noon to 1 p.m. jazz organist Tom Reyes will appear with his trio that includes Darrell Dunning on drums and Jim Dedrick on double bass. They play every Monday night at Bourbon Boulevard in Chantilly, Va.

1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Susan Jones, a hot-jazz inspired violinist, will appear with Jim Cunningham on guitar, Bob Abbott on bass and Tom Jones on drums. The group plays a mix of Latin and jazz standards along with original pieces and a few Django Reinhardt tunes.

3 to 4 p.m., M-Class plays jazz and fusion, led by Terry Parham on piano and keyboard, Dave Satterwhite on electric bass and Darrell Dunning on acoustic drums. M-Class delivers a fresh take with its unique sound and groove. Terry and Darrell have previously appeared here as 4ThaGruv and Club Malbec.

4:30 to 5:30 p.m., the Not 2 Cool Jazz Band is led by trum-



PHOTO COURTESY THE BAND

The Not 2 Cool Jazz Band will play at the Jazz Fest on June 25.

pet/piano player Michael Grasso and features vocalist Aimee Breslow. They play classic jazz, bossa nova and soft rock with an emphasis on melodies from the 1920s through the 1970s. Mike

should be familiar to anyone who has stopped by the New Deal Café during the Farmers Market. Other band members are Steve

See JAZZ FEST, page 8

Celebrate Juneteenth 2022 With Films, Art and Words

by Lois Rosado

The first Emancipation Day celebration – once the Emancipation Proclamation was decreed on January 1, 1863 – took place in Port Royal, S.C. Some 250,000 enslaved African people living in Texas did not learn of their liberation until June 19, 1865, more

than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. Many reasons have been cited for that delay, including the murder of a messenger and the deliberate withholding of information by slave owners. When word reached Texas, it sparked the

celebration of Juneteenth, a term that combines the month of June and the nineteenth (19), the date when all African Americans were freed from chattel slavery. Former Texas slave Felix Haywood

See JUNETEENTH, page 8



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

561 students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School graduate on Friday, June 3, at the Xfinity Center at the University of Maryland.

Little Jewels of the Night: Fireflies Are Emerging Now

by Mary Ann Canter

Firefly season is upon us and fireflies will emerge through about the second week in July. Visit the Greenbelt Firefly Sanctuary in Stream Valley Park after dark when they put on their show or go to one of several areas around the city that have high concentrations of fireflies. These include the patch of woods between Lastner Lane and the Police Station or the woods on Hamilton Place past the Greenbelt Homes, Inc., offices.

Many backyards in Greenbelt also have fireflies. They are abundant in areas that have these characteristics: protection from pesticides, dark nights, food such as snails, slugs and earth worms and safe places to overwinter that include leaf litter and clean water. They thrive in areas where the soil has not been disturbed. Fireflies like scrubby, grassy areas next to trees and damp soil.

There will be an informational talk at the sanctuary on Saturday, July 9 at 10 p.m., with someone on hand to answer questions between 9:30

and 11 p.m. Scientists believe the main cause of firefly decline is light pollution. Fireflies are sensitive to even small amounts of light which interfere with their ability to find a mate. Help fireflies by turning off backyard lights during the season.

The Firefly Sanctuary in the Stream Valley Park can be accessed via the paved trail that runs northward, just west of the Crescent Road/Northway intersection and directly across Crescent from Field House Road, which runs along the old St. Hugh's school. Follow the lighted path past a series of three bridges on the left until the path opens up into a wide space.



PHOTO BY BRUCE MARLIN

Beetle commonly known as firefly

Babe Ruth Is Back in Action

by Ian Gleason



PHOTO BY IAN GLEASON

AJ Rizzo scores a run in Greenbelt Babe Ruth's (18U) season opener at the Stars and Strikes Tournament in Columbia.

What Goes On

No city council meetings. Council at Maryland Municipal League Conference, Ocean City.

Monday, June 13

7 p.m. Community discussion on policing (in Spanish), Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Thursday, June 16

7 p.m. Community discussion on policing, via Zoom (tinyurl.com/ydxumv4p)

See the city ad on page 5 and the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

Babe Ruth Baseball has returned to Greenbelt. Both the 18U and 15U teams have started their seasons with home games being played at Braden Field. The 15U team has a strong returning group of players including Roman Hurwitz, Roman Zentek and Lincoln Beasley. The 18U team is anchored by Antoine Franklin, Jr., AJ Bender and Logan Beasley.

The upcoming schedule at Braden Field: 15U – Friday, June 10 at 6:15 p.m. vs Marlboro and Wednesday, June 15 at 6:15 p.m. vs DC Knights; 18U – Monday, June 13 at 6:15 p.m. vs DC Knights and Friday, June 17 at 6:15 p.m. vs Laurel.

Letters to the Editor

Primary Election Voting Is Important!

In the past few weeks, I wrote a packet of letters to people in Texas encouraging them to vote in the primary election. The two Democratic candidates running for Congress in their district had very different stances on the environment. The candidate who won had an extremely poor record on the environment and only won by 120 votes. This was a great reminder to me of how critical every vote is in both the primary and general elections. Let's get out and vote on July 19.

Patience Robbins

Write Home, Gnome

In my dotage I placed a few small, amusing garden gnomes in my yard. Recently I noticed one was missing. I am anticipating receiving photos of him standing before tourist landmarks as he travels the globe. Perhaps he will be holding an issue of the Greenbelt News Review.

Sylvia Lewis



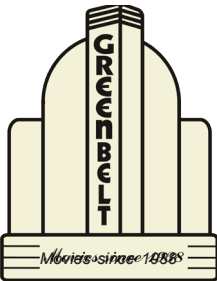
Correction

In last week's article Rally to Bridge Communities, Lois Rosado's quote was incomplete in the print version of the paper. The full quote is included in the online paper (greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR20220602.pdf) and printed here: "I do not advocate violence, but I do believe in the right of self-defense against racial and religious terrorists."



Really, you gave my rowing two stars?

- M. Kusie



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
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www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JUNE 10TH – JUNE 16TH

PLEASE NOTE WE NOW
HAVE TWO SCREENS:
SCREEN 1 -
MAIN AUDITORIUM,
CAPPED AT 184
SCREEN 2 -
THE SCREENING ROOM,
CAPPED AT 30

JURASSIC WORLD:
DOMINION (PG-13) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (146 MINS)

FRI. 4:45 PM, 8:00 PM
SCREEN 1
SAT. 4:45 PM, 8:00 PM
SCREEN 1
SUN. 1:45 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
SCREEN 1
MON. 1:45 PM, 5:00 PM
SCREEN 1

BENEDICTION (PG-13) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (137 MINS)

FRI. 5:00 PM **SCREEN 2**
SAT. 8:15 PM **SCREEN 2**
SUN. 2:00 PM **SCREEN 2**
MON. 5:15 PM **SCREEN 2**

THE NORTHMAN (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (140 mins)

FRI. 8:15 PM **SCREEN 2**
SAT. 5:00 PM **SCREEN 2**
SUN. 5:15 PM **SCREEN 2**
MON. 2:00 PM **SCREEN 2**

Specialty Screening
Sponsored by RUAK: **FREE**
42 (PG-13) (CC) (DVS)
(2013) (128 mins)

THUR. JUNE 16TH 5:30 PM
SCREEN 1



PHOTO BY JOSH KINER

Members of the Aquila-Kiner family peruse the News Review at the foot of the Space Needle in Seattle.

On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

Jurassic World: Dominion

Premiering Friday, June 10, the sixth film in the Jurassic Park franchise revives characters from Steven Spielberg's 1993 original: Alan Grant (Sam Neill), Dr. Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern) and Dr. Ian Malcom (Jeff Goldblum). They work alongside Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) and Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard) four years after Isla Nublar was destroyed. Humans and dinosaurs try to coexist after the dinosaurs escaped the island and began inhabiting the world.

Rated PG-13, running time 146 minutes

Benediction

Written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Terence Davies, Benediction explores the turbulent life of poet Siegfried Sassoon (Jack Lowden). Sassoon was a complex man who was decorated for his bravery in World War I but became a vocal critic of the government's continuation of the war when he returned from service. His poetry was inspired by his experiences on the Western Front, and he became one of the leading war poets of the era. Adored by members of the aristocracy as well as stars of London's literary and stage world, he embarked on affairs with several men as he attempted to come to terms with his homosexuality. At the same time, broken by the horror of war, he made his life's journey a quest for salvation, trying to find it within the conformity of marriage and religion.

Rated PG-13, running time 137 minutes

The Northman

From visionary director Robert Eggers, the film is an action-filled epic that follows a young Viking prince on his quest to avenge his father's murder. Prince Amleth (Alexander Skarsgard) is on the verge of becoming a man when his father (Ethan Hawke) is brutally murdered by his uncle (Claes Bang), who kidnaps the boy's mother (Nicole Kidman). Two decades later, Amleth is now on a mission to save his mother, kill his uncle and avenge his father.

Rated R, running time 140 minutes

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library hours: Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Health and Safety

Face masks continue to be required at county libraries for everyone ages 2 and up. The Library appreciates customers' assistance with maintaining a safe environment for children who are not yet eligible for Covid-19 vaccines and for customers and staff who are at high risk.

Note that the Library has resumed presenting outdoor programs by the upper level entrance, weather permitting. Programs at the Greenbelt Branch move inside into the Auditorium on the lower level next week.

Events

The following events will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Register online to attend.

Ready 2 Read Storytimes. Wednesdays, ages 3 to 5, 12:15 p.m.; Thursdays, ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m. Come for stories, songs, finger-plays and more.

Teen Action Group. Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Need to earn community service hours? Come make a difference in the community, gain friends from around the area and make your voice heard.

VolunTEEN Program

Prince George's County teens in grades 6 to 12 can earn student service learning (SSL) hours through participation in the Library's VolunTEEN program. Teens may submit the appropriate information needed for each VolunTEEN prompt in Beanstack via the link on the Teens webpage at pgcmls.info/teens. All of the necessary information must be provided for a teen to earn their SSL hours through the VolunTEEN program, up to a maximum of 12 SSL hours.

PORCH Pickups Benefit Food Pantry

The June schedule for Greenbelt PORCH collections is as follows:

Sunday, June 12: by 11 a.m. at 1 to 8 Courts Ridge, 1 to 8 Courts Crescent and 1 to 2 Courts Westway; by 3 p.m. for Woodland Hills

Sunday, June 19: between 2 and 4 p.m. for all of Boxwood Village

Saturday, June 25: by 11 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, June 26: by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members; by 4 p.m. for the 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Donated items must not exceed the expiration date for use.



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Financial Resources For Accessible Homes

On Tuesday, June 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) will host Christal Batey from Greenbelt's Assistance in Living Program for a community event via Zoom. This session will provide information about two sources of funding for home modifications to enable seniors and disabled individuals to remain in their own homes. The first program is Accessible Homes for Seniors (dhcd.maryland.gov/Residents/Pages/ahsp) and the second is a Whole-Home Grant (dhcd.maryland.gov/residents/pages/wholehome.aspx). Batey will explain the programs, how they work and how individuals can apply for these funds. Register in advance for this meeting at <https://bit.ly/3tpNhLx>.

A confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting will be sent. One does not need to be a GHI member to attend this event.

New Chess Club In Greenbelt

Chess Club is for all levels and ages and is free of charge. The next meeting is Monday, June 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and then the second Monday of every month, at the New Deal Café. Teaching is provided, as needed. Bring a chess board, if possible. For questions, contact Effie Levner, 443-415-1053.

Boxwood Village Scholarship Open

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual \$500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, Annual Boxwood Yard Sale and other activities.

The application form should be completed and returned by Thursday, June 30. For further information, email Pat McAndrew at pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net.

GIVES Membership Meeting June 11

Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) will hold its quarterly membership meeting via Zoom on Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. A Zoom link will be sent to all members prior to the meeting.

GIVES members volunteer to transport people to medical and other necessary appointments, take care of pets during hospital stays or other times when seniors cannot, stay with members who can't be left alone so that their family can run errands, and pick up groceries or other items ordered online.

Anyone who needs help now or knows someone who may need these services, call 301-507-6580 for a membership application form. Once a member, one can request a service that will be sent to the volunteer providers. Service requests must be submitted at least four business days in advance to give time to find a match.

Because GIVES is part of a federal grant program under the auspices of the Jewish Council on Aging in Montgomery County and for insurance purposes, anyone receiving or providing services must be a GIVES member.

For more information about becoming a member, either to receive assistance or volunteer to provide services, call 301-507-6580 or send an email to givesoffice@gmail.com. The office is staffed from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. every weekday.

Greenbelt Peace Camp

Peace Camp, a social emotional learning program for children ages 5 to 14, will be held Monday to Friday, July 18 to 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Church. Little Friends for Peace uses art, games and presentations to teach children mindfulness, empathy, anger management, conflict resolution and self-empowerment. The price is \$275. Scholarships are available. For more information go to lffp.org/peacecamp.html.

TheSPACE Celebrates Father's Day, June 11

This Saturday, June 11, from 2 to 4 p.m., The SPACE is celebrating Father's Day with an opportunity to decorate a gift for Dad. Bracelet making will be available in the center court of Beltway Plaza.

Bicyclists: Take Note!

Although May's Bike Month has passed, bicycling season is still underway. For those minor repairs, or just a shot of air in the tires to get cyclists on their way, the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) bicycle repair station stands ready to assist.

The station includes tools for basic maintenance and that all-important tire pump to keep PSI up. The GHI Board and the Bicycle Committee invite riders to check it out at its location adjacent to the GHI maintenance building, 1 Hamilton Place, near the flagpole.

Red Cross Urgently Seeks Blood Donors

To schedule an appointment to donate blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Upcoming local drives are at the Hotel at the University of Maryland on Tuesday, June 14; and at the Greenbelt American Legion Post on Monday, July 11.

All who give blood in the month of June will receive a \$5 e-gift card and will be entered for a chance to win a VIP trip to Graceland for two.

Juneteenth Festival Free at Watkins Park

Watkins Regional Park will host a Juneteenth 2022 festival on Saturday, June 18 from noon to 5 p.m. Live entertainment, visual art exhibition, art and history activities, food and merchandise vendors, and nonprofit exhibitors will be featured.

The festival events are free. To learn more, visit pgparks.com/Juneteenth.

Restaurant Week Goes Until Friday, June 10

Flavors of Greenbelt: Restaurant Week, which continues through Friday, June 10, is a great opportunity for diners to explore the diverse restaurant scene in Greenbelt and to find a new go-to place for dining out – as well as taking in a good movie at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Through this event, diners will enjoy some of the best food the area has to offer at special prices at one of the 14 participating restaurants.

For coupons visit ruak.org/flavors/ to download a flier with discount coupons for participating restaurants. Then, take in a discounted film at the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Writers Group Meeting About Peace Month

Calling all writers: on Friday, June 17 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center, the Greenbelt Writers Group will participate in the city's Peace Month by sharing writings about peace. Define it in any way, from international peace to inner peace. There will also be time to share previously written pieces on any theme. Also there will be an opportunity to share brief presentations, to allow for wide participation. Masks are recommended. For more information, contact Barbara Ford at 301-441-8241.

Celebrate Refugees June 11 at Parkdale

World Refugee Day will be commemorated on Saturday, June 11 from noon to 4 p.m. at Parkdale High School. Activities will include musical performances, sports, arts and crafts, face painting and more. Afghan, Hispanic and Lebanese food will be available. Lutheran Social Services, who have brought thousands of refugees to safety in America, is hosting this event. Parkdale High School is located at 6001 Good Luck Road, Riverdale, just past Greenbelt Park off Kenilworth Avenue.

Race Amity Day Dialogue in Greenbelt

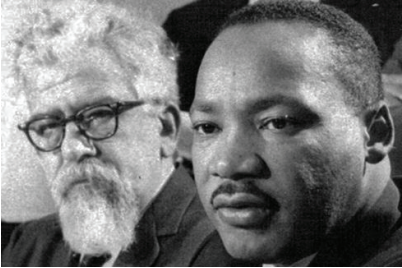
There is only one race, the human race, but racism is real

Developing rich inter-racial relationships is one of many ways to fight the systemic racism so blatant in our country


Sunday June 12 – 7-9PM – on Zoom

We will learn about the friendship between Rabbi Abraham Heschel & Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

and then share how we increase our own inter-racial relationships.






Zoom ID: 837 4407 1055
passcode: 718274



Scan with cellphone camera to join meeting

Organized by the Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
Co-sponsored by Connecting Across Greenbelt
Inspired by the work of the National Center for Race Amity








Greenbelt Access Television
Jun 10, Fri – Jun 16, Thu

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station		
7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	GATe Classic Film • Animation • 1939	Gulliver's Travels • Fleischer Studios
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Capitol Heights v University Park Elementary
2pm	Music at the New Deal SEASON FIVE	Stripmall Ballads and Rock Creek Revival
3pm	GATe Classic Film • Animation • 1939	Gulliver's Travels • Fleischer Studios
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Capitol Heights v University Park Elementary
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
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10pm	Music at the New Deal SEASON FIVE	Stripmall Ballads and Rock Creek Revival
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming

Connect with GATe

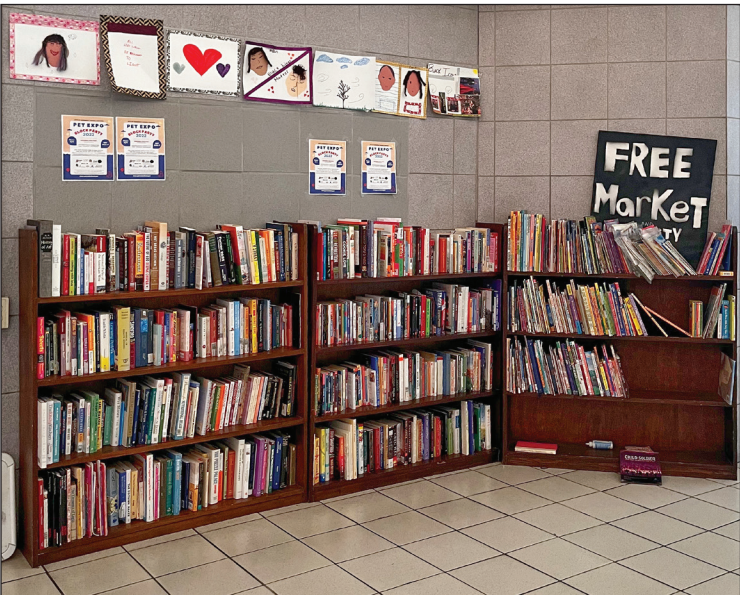


www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

The SPACE Free Art For All And Library Get 4,000 Books

The SPACE Free Art For All at Beltway Plaza and Friends of the Greenbelt Library hosted a book drive on May 31, and the result, according to Shaymar Higgs who runs The SPACE, was astounding. “Geeeeeze! We were not prepared,” Higgs wrote on Facebook.

Volunteers put 2,000 books onto shelves, and another 2,000 books into storage. “There are some really good books in this collection. Spanish, kids and adult books, Black romance novels, tons of Black history, cook-books and on and on,” he reported.



Some of the books collected through The SPACE's and the Friends of the Greenbelt Library's book drive await readers. The SPACE is located in Beltway Plaza.

Obituaries

Thomas Van Valkenburgh

Thomas Van Valkenburgh, 79, a resident of Santa Fe, N.M., died on May 27, 2022. He was born in Prescott, Ariz., on March 24, 1943 to the late Mary and Edward Van Valkenburgh.

Thomas was a very active man in his community and throughout his life. He served in the United States Marine Corps, was a police officer in Greenbelt in the 1960s and 1970s, served as bureau chief for the New Mexico State Police Crime Labs and was a deacon at Cristo Rey Catholic Church in Santa Fe. He also found the time to be an umpire with the Santa Fe Softball Association.

Thomas is survived by his wife of 57 years Carole Van Valkenburgh; children Thomas Van Valkenburgh II, Christine Atwell (Douglas) and Kim Van Valkenburgh. Thomas is also sur-

vived by his grandchildren Joseph Van Valkenburgh, Ashley Van Valkenburgh, Paul Van Valkenburgh, John Van Damme, Brandon Atwell and Hunter Atwell. He is preceded in death by his brothers, William and Edward Van Valkenburgh and also his sisters Tess Hertel and June Thompson.

A viewing will be held on Monday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Cristo Rey Catholic Church, with a rosary to follow at 7 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Tuesday, June 14 at 10 a.m., also at Cristo Rey Catholic Church. Immediately following will be a reception at Cristo Rey Gym. The burial will be held Tuesday, June 28 at 11:30 a.m. at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

The family wishes to express their tremendous gratitude for all the kind words and support during this time.



Condolences to the family and friends of Patricia Holly Kurburski Routt who grew up at 45 Court Ridge Road and lived in Greenbelt until she was 70.

Our condolences also to the family and friends of Thomas Van Valkenburgh, who had been a police officer in Greenbelt in the 1960s and 1970s. His wife, Carole Ann, was the daughter of Edward and Katherine Beebe, who lived in Greenbelt from 1945 to 1981.

Congratulations to seventh-graders from Greenbelt Middle School who participated in the Maryland Olympiada of Spoken Russian for high school and middle school students, organized by the American Council of the Teachers of Russian. Gold medal winners were Anna Dahlen, Autumn Karaffa-Sartin, Charles James, Emily Gendreau and Ramon Ceballos Joa. Silver medal winners were Belen Chavez De La O, Chibuike Okeke and Gerly Melara.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Greenbelters and others enjoy a painting party and ukulele jam outside the Community Center on a beautiful day, for the Artful Afternoon on Sunday, June 5.



Rhododendron bushes on Ridge Road, opposite Green Ridge House, as seen on May 15



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT


During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors


Find us on  [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Reverend Rivera, Pastor

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Join us when ambition loses its luster



The Bible Says...

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School

MCFcc.org

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org





Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

Worship & Church School Sunday 10:15 AM

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

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*Dr. Regina Hampton,
Medical Director of the Breast Center at LHDCMC*

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City Council Reviews Proposal For Greenbelt Road Improvement

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt City Council and staff are moving forward with plans for transforming the Greenbelt Road corridor between Route 1 and Kenilworth Avenue into a safer and more friendly thoroughfare for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as a way to improve economic development. Community Planner Holly Simmons shared the latest Greenbelt Road Draft Corridor Plan, done by consultant Kittelson and Associates Inc., with council on May 25. Simmons emphasized that the process is still in the planning phase, that more detailed strategies on exactly how all of this will be done are still down the line. Yet, Mayor Emmett Jordan said that this was a vital step in creating a vision for the future.

The study was funded by a Transportation Land Use Connections grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Traffic volumes along the corridor have dropped, with there being 49,420 vehicles in 2019 and 36,700 vehicles in 2021. Volume peaked in 2006 and has never rebounded through things like the Great Recession of 2008 and the pandemic.

Major Recommendations

There are four major recommendations in the report. The first is the removal of a travel lane on each side of the corridor, which is a lynchpin to a large number of the other recommendations. A current traffic operations analysis is proposed. The retiming of signals was an important suggestion. And, in case these strategies prove ineffective, the report posits creating alternative intersections. Another much-discussed option was reducing the speed, perhaps to 25 mph.

Current Status

Crash data from 2015 to 2021 revealed two walking fatalities and 10 walkers and two bikers injured, all by cars. The corridor received the worst possible scores on pathway pedestrian level of comfort, crossing pedestrian level of comfort and bicycle level of traffic stress.

Simmons explained that there was a frequent limited use of right of way to make improvements to the sidewalks, due to things like steep adjacent slopes and utility poles. Pilot programs are contained within the existing curb-to-curb width. When various recommendations were combined, a higher level of synergy resulted.

Phased Actions

The report offered ideas for the short, middle and long term. A debated short-term proposal was a one-way separated bike lane pilot on both sides of the road. The medium-term recommendation was a two-way cycle track pilot with a shared use path on the alternate side. The consultant's preferred long-term goal was shared-use paths on both sides of the corridor. This would also include trees and greenery, a much desired option as it creates a more pleasing aesthetic.

Pedestrian Safety

Ways to increase pedestrian safety included: high visibility crossings at all signalized intersection approaches; median refuge islands at all marked crosswalks; signalized mid-block crossings; removing or constricting right-turn slip-lanes; and removing right-turn acceleration and deceleration lanes. Options such as increasing the sidewalk

See **GREENBELT RD**, page 9

Recognition Groups Seek Funds Through Annual Budget Process

by Matthew Arbach

Twelve recognition groups met with the Greenbelt City Council on May 4 to have their grant applications assessed for the upcoming fiscal year and compiled in a report created by the city's grant review panel. The funding requests were either operating grants (to cover expenses and services) or project grants. All the groups have a significant history of providing valuable programs to the community. Said Recreation Director Greg Varda, this meeting represented only a snapshot, as there are many more organizations working in the city, offering "something for everyone" and giving the city "an identity."

Concert Band

The Greenbelt Concert Band, represented by Eli Zimete, has now returned to full in-person rehearsals at the Community Center as well as performing. It currently has 34 members, with a number lost from Covid in the past two years. Future performances include the Labor Day Festival. The band requested \$3,600 to pay its music director.

Farmers Market

Carissa Ralbovsky, of the Greenbelt Farmers Market, is excited about returning "to more normal operations," having weathered the pandemic the past two years with reduced numbers of vendors. The Market opened on Sunday, May 8, with 30 vendors. The Market's partnership

with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) saw an increase in token transactions, which are purchased to be used at the Market, from \$455 in 2017 to \$9,000 in 2021.

Labor Day Festival

Linda Ivy, of the Labor Day Festival Committee, announced that the celebration will fully resume in person this year. Bus service remains an issue, with deliberations continuing. Varda said that the two alternatives are the city shuttle or a contractor such as O'Brien Bus Service, which has been used in the past. A commitment has been signed with a carnival as well as for a bandstand.

Soccer

The Greenbelt Soccer Alliance has gotten a sizeable response in its registrations, with its teams now full and games scheduled. It offers fall and spring seasons with drop-in soccer in the summer. The Alliance mainly uses Schrom Hills Park, Youth Memorial Park in New Carrollton, Driscoll Park in Hyattsville and Eleanor Roosevelt High School, when available.

Baseball

Greenbelt Babe Ruth serves two teen groupings, 13 to 15 and 16 to 18 years old. There is a season running from the third week in May to early July, with a fall season from September

to the first week in November. Greenbelt Little League funnels them to the older groups. An influx of female coaches fulfills their commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Greenbelt Youth Baseball, or this area's Little League, started the season with 170 participants, which is "better than normal," according to Patrick Keaton. A field light, unused from December through February, remains a chronic problem, as the organization continues to receive a bill from Pepco during this period. The city offered to pick up this cost. Scholarships and discounts are offered to Greenbelt residents.

FONDCA

The Friends of the New Deal Café Arts, a nonprofit organization separate from the Café, is committed to bringing arts to the city, using the Café as a platform. The following festivals are in the works: the Jazz Festival on June 25; the Blues Festival on September 8; and the Crazy Quilt Festival on October 8. The project grant being requested would go toward these events. The Café is also used for art shows, currently scheduled for September and October.

Greenbelt Arts Center

After a dramatic pivot to alternative programming, much of it online, Greenbelt Arts Center

See **GROUPS**, page 11

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GHI Virtual Event
Tuesday, June 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Learn about two Maryland programs funding home modifications for seniors and people with disabilities. Register in advance for this meeting:
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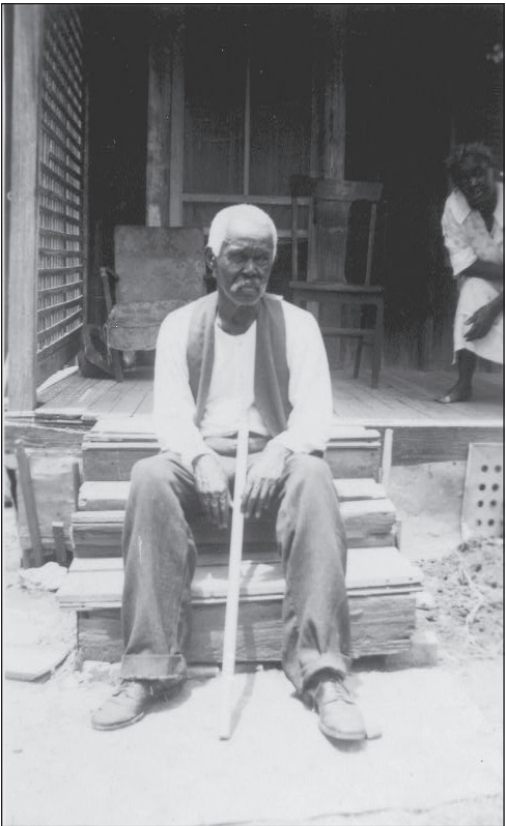
JUNETEENTH continued from page 1

exclaimed, “We was all walkin’ on golden clouds ... everybody went wild ... we was free. Just like that, we was free,” according to Lone Star Past: Memory and History in Texas.

Not all of those enslaved in Texas were released from bondage in 1865. Many were forced to remain in plantations until after the harvest. However, June 19 is considered by many African Americans as their Independence Day. As people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country, Juneteenth celebrations migrated with them. In 2021, Juneteenth was declared a national holiday in the United States.

While Juneteenth is considered a liberation day, we also want to recognize and celebrate the influence that enslaved African people had on our American cuisine. Do you drink Coca Cola, or coffee? Do you eat black-eyed peas? Like mac and cheese? Ever heard of jambalaya, gumbos, pepper pot, Saratoga chips? Do you eat watermelon? Well, the kola nut was chewed by Africans for caffeine. Okra, black-eyed peas, watermelon, some peppers – all were brought to our country by Africans. Macaroni and cheese is a dish created by James Hemings, Thomas Jefferson’s chef, who trained in France. George Washington’s chef, Hercules, and Emmanuel Jones both gained national reputations as outstanding chefs after their transitions to freedom. Let us not forget sweet potato pie. Enslaved Africans used sweet potatoes as a substitute for yams, a root food eaten in much of the Caribbean. Methods of deep-frying fish and barbecuing were also developed by enslaved African people, as they were the cooks on the plantations of North America. Saratoga Springs, N.Y., chef George Crum created our famous potato chip. Africa and African Americans contributed greatly to the many foods all Americans love.

This year the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Commit-



Felix Haywood

PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

tee, in collaboration with Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK), the Old Greenbelt Theatre (OGT) and small business sponsors Conquest Solutions, LLC, and the law offices of Johnine Clark are hosting the Chadwick Boseman Film Festival beginning on Thursday, June 16 at 5:30 p.m. with the movie 42. Airing on Saturday, June 18 at 8 p.m. is Da 5 Bloods, and on Monday, June 20 at 2 p.m. is Get On Up. Films are free, but donations are accepted.

The winners of the Prince George’s County Equal Justice Initial Essay Contest and the Prince George’s County Lynching Memorial Project (PGCLMP) student art contest will be presented on Saturday, June 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Community Center. The event is sponsored by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, in collaboration with Greenbelt Recreation and PGCLMP.

Also on Saturday, June 18 from noon to 3 p.m., The SPACE Free Art For All at Beltway Plaza, will feature a Poetry and Monologue Workshop led by René Charlow, a former assistant to the late American playwright and poet Ntozake Shange.

All activities are free, so come out and enjoy the commemoration and celebrations of Juneteenth 2022.

JAZZ FEST continued from page 1

Ragsdale on guitar, Doug Perry on bass and Neal “Bam” Feldman on drums.

6 to 7 p.m., the Greg Meyer Project will play bluesy, R&B roots music. The five-piece band germinated during the pandemic. Meyer, a Greenbelt resident, has done much for music in the community, including organizing over a decade of jam sessions and festivals.

7 to 8 p.m., the festival moves indoors: Pete Reppert on solo piano brings familiar standards to Happy Hour inside the New Deal Café, warming up the house for The Brother Bill Quintet, who play blues and gospel-inspired renditions of classics from the Bluenote era of the ’50s and ’60s with a soulful, sophisticated and funky beat.

In the event of rain, the entire show will go on inside the Café. Admission is free, with tips encouraged. Sponsored by FONDCA (Friends of New Deal Café Arts) and the City of Greenbelt.



City Council Meets on Final 2023 Budget Worksession

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt City Council convened its final worksession on the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023 budget on Wednesday, June 1. The meeting focused mainly on additions to the formal submitted budget, which included equipment, projects and new personnel. This meeting was a culmination of eight worksessions and two public hearings. Said Interim City Manager Timothy George, “There is no fluff in the budget,” with departments making requests solely on necessity.

For FY23, the proposed revenues are \$33,352,800, the total expenditures are \$33,188,200 and the fund balance is \$164,200.

Treasurer Bertha Gaymon presented cost-of-living adjustments, with a 2-percent increase adding \$439,000 and a 3-percent increase adding \$658,000 to the budget. Council was attentive to the fact that the rise in the cost of living and inflation are major factors for city employees and must be addressed to retain staff. Greenbelt Recreation has raised its non-classified hourly rate to \$15 at a cost of \$268,000.

New Positions

A number of new city positions were discussed: a grants coordinator at \$52,647; a diversity/equity and inclusion coordinator at \$95,346; an IT security specialist at \$89,886; an assistant IT director promotion at \$10,258; an assistant director for Planning and Community Development at \$130,613; a reinstated deputy police chief at a net cost of \$25,103; a crisis intervention counselor at \$84,714; an addition-

al code inspector for Code Enforcement at \$90,000 to address the city’s growing needs; and a now full-time crisis intervention counselor for Greenbelt CARES at a net cost of \$28,549. George stated that all of these positions were considered necessary by the various departments.

Most of council and all of staff felt that a grants coordinator would be highly useful, both in the detailed managing of grants and in the acquisition of new ones. Current staff shortages have meant missed opportunities. George said that Bowie now has a three-person grants team that has been very successful and lucrative. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds could be used to launch this position, with Mayor Emmett Jordan and George confident that subsequent grant success would pay for this position in the long run. Councilmember Rodney Roberts was skeptical and worried over added draws on tax-generated revenues from residents.

The majority of council supported the diversity coordinator, with Councilmember Judith Davis feeling that such an addition would be ill-advised in the current economic environment and Councilmember Silke Pope saying that this area is already being addressed well by the city Human Resources Director Dawane Martinez.

Gaymon explained that about \$4.5 million is available in unassigned funds, compiled from the rainy day and budget stabilization funds. Both Davis and

George urged caution in using these funds, with Davis citing the impact of the forthcoming staff compensation study on wages and benefits.

City Tax Rate

The existing city tax rate is 0.8275 and with a property assessment of \$240,000 – Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Roberts advised that many homes in the city exceed this – the tax amount is \$1,986. A 1-percent reduction in the tax rate would be 0.8192, and the tax amount would be \$1,966, a savings of \$19.86 to each resident. Gaymon laid out other savings to be engendered from possible decreases, such as from a 2-percent drop which would lower the yearly tax bill from \$1,966 to \$1,946.

Council was keen on not raising taxes if at all possible, yet acknowledged the desires of most residents to have a continuity of services they have come to expect, which will potentially raise taxes resulting from things like property values, inflation and cost of living. Roberts noted that many in the city are frustrated by the city’s tax rate, among the highest in the state, concerned that any kind of increase will discourage future residents.

Additional Items

An additional list of possible budget items was presented. An expenditure of \$5,000 for council room chairs was ultimately considered important, as they have heavy usage and require safety. A broadband feasibility study for

See BUDGET, page 11



PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meeting of the GHI and GDC Board
Meetings on June 16, 2022

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m - closed to members and visitors

- a) 2022 Contract for Replacing Roofs for Detached and Attached Garages - 2nd reading
- b) Approve Minutes of the Closed Meeting Held on May 5, 2022
- c) Separate Contracts for Repairs of Two Units Assigned to GHI
- d) Member Complaint Matters

GHI Open Meeting -starts after the GDC Open Meeting ends – open to visitors and members

- a) Statement of Closed Meeting Held on June 2, 2022
- b) Statement of Closed Meeting Held on June 16, 2022
- c) Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on May 5, 2022
- d) Request from Caliber Home Inc. to Become an Approved GHI Share Loan Provider
- e) Proposal for Housing Refugees
- f) Format of Committee Meetings
- g) Review Audit Committee Recommendations in the 2021-22 Annual Report
- h) Review 2022 First Quarter Financial Statements
- i) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on July 14, 2022

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meeting must register in advance via the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpd-Crpj8tEtGnHBlvuRT0oQvA4hZBbDGM>

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred from May 30 through June 5. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Note that the times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Missing Person
On May 30 at 9:34 p.m. near 7200 Mandan Road, Critical Missing Adult: Dajuan Hinson (DOB 10/02/1996) B/M 5'11", 160 pounds. He was last seen wearing a black hat, black shirt and brown jeans on May 30 at approximately 9:30 p.m. in the 7200 block of Mandan Road on a soccer field. Hinson is diagnosed with autism and needs specialized care. If anyone comes into contact with him, please contact Detective Brown at (240) 542-2110 or kbrown@greenbeltmd.gov.

Robbery
On May 31 at 4:44 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road. Attempted commercial robbery. Man in ski mask demanded money from register; employee took the money and ran to the back room. Suspect fled without taking anything.

Assault
On May 31 at 3:18 p.m. near 7500 Greenway Center Drive. Physical altercation between two customers.

On June 1 at 11:44 p.m. near 5900 Springhill Drive. Victim assaulted by unknown suspect.

On June 3 at 11:48 a.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace. Juvenile fight.

Auto Stolen
On June 1 at 7:57 a.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive. 2015 Nissan Altima stolen.

On June 4 at 7:43 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road. 2018 Nissan Altima stolen, after being left unlocked with the keys in the vehicle.

On June 5 at 12:06 p.m. near 9100 Edmonston Court. 2014 Nissan Sentra stolen after being left unlocked with the keys in the

vehicle; at 2:09 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, 2006 Nissan Frontier stolen.

Auto Vandalism
On June 5 at 11:03 a.m. near 6300 Golden Triangle Drive. Front passenger window broken, nothing taken.

Break-In
On May 31 at 12:47 p.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court. Two individuals attempted to enter residence from balcony window; when they noticed the homeowner inside, they fled.

Fraud
On May 31 at 12:45 p.m. near Woodland Way. Mail check fraud.

On June 1 at 12:27 p.m. near Ridge Road. Unemployment fraud.

Theft
On May 30 at 9:40 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road. Commercial theft; at 6:38 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft.

On May 31 at 12:58 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road. Commercial theft.

On June 1 at 4:26 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road. Commercial theft.

Theft from Auto
On May 31 at 7:00 a.m. near 6100 Breezewood Drive. Handicap placard stolen.

On June 3 at 3:58 p.m. near 7800 Hanover Parkway. Rear driver-side window broken, personal property stolen.

On June 4 at 1:53 p.m. near 7800 Mandan Road. Driver-side window broken, personal property stolen.

On June 5 at 9:38 a.m. near 7400 Greenway Center Drive. Passenger-side window broken, personal property stolen.

GREENBELT ROAD continued from page 7

width to 5 feet and the buffer zone between the road and sidewalk were presented.

Transit Experience
Another subject was improving the transit experience along the corridor. Recommendations were: installing benches and shelters at traffic stops, relocating and consolidating bus stops and the possibility of transit signal priority signage. Currently, transit is provided by WMATA, the county's The Bus and the UMD Shuttle. Regarding the relocation of the Beltway Plaza internal bus stops away from the road, Councilmember Ric Gordon advised looking at retaining these as they are essential for visitors with mobility issues.

Public Comment
"Kap" Kapastin, general counsel for Quantum Companies, the owner of Beltway Plaza, stated that according to the analysis by Lenhart Traffic Consulting, Greenbelt Road should remain a six-lane divided highway. He countered that removing a lane in both directions has not been proved to be a "cure-all" for the broader usability of the corridor. He did agree with several of the recommendations though, such as retiming the signals, having high visibility crosswalks at all signalized intersections and longer intervals for pedestrian crossings, among other things.

Resident and Park and Recreation Advisory Board member Matt Sickie introduced the term "boulevard" as a way to reimagine the corridor, which has more of a community feel rather than a thoroughway.

Resident Bill Orleans added onto that idea, suggesting more business frontage along the corridor as a way to stimulate economic development; an inverse of the current situation where parking now fronts the road.

Advisory Planning Board member Isabelle Gournay advised rethinking the lane removal idea, specifically at the left turn onto Cherrywood Lane from College

Park. Extensive engineering scrutiny needs to be done beforehand. She also stressed considering all the new development, like the new Motiva Apartments and the proposed redevelopment of Beltway Plaza (which includes significant amounts of housing) into any further deliberations.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) will be the final arbiter on any changes to the corridor. At this time, SHA has committed to a number of projects on the corridor to begin soon, including: an upgrade to all crosswalks to a Continental style, with markings that provide high

visibility; a corridor-wide speed limit reduction; and an evaluation on how to improve bike usage.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver said that the fundamental question is what groups should the road be tailored to, either residents or commuters? This must be addressed before any substantive future efforts are made, with Weaver favoring pedestrians and bikers.

Simmons said the public comment period on the report ended on May 31. Subsequently, the consultant will gather the feedback and create a new report for council to consider.

Greenbelt Pet Expo



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

Humans and pets stand in line for the low cost vaccines offered at the Greenbelt Pet Expo held next to the Greenbelt Dog Park on Saturday, June 4.



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YARD/MOVING SALES
CRAFTERS YARD SALE – Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Quilting, sewing, knitting. fabric, yarn, sewing and knitting notions, other crafting supplies. Christian Community Presbyterian Church, 3120 Belair Drive, Bowie. Sponsored by Southern Comforters of Bowie Quilt Guild.



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1996 CHEVROLET CAPRICE
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BUDGET continued from page 8

the city would qualify for ARPA funds. Davis recommended a \$3,000 increase to \$5,000 to the Homeowner Grant Program to encourage city residence for city staff. Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) Chief Richard Bowers indicated that an additional position in Animal Control could be delayed. \$2,500 to the Labor Day Committee was assigned to Greenbelt Recreation for shuttle service, if Greenbelt Connection proves unavailable.

Bowers fielded questions about transportation and personnel. A proposal to purchase two e-bikes for city use, specifically for police, at \$10,000 was mostly deemed a benefit by council and Bowers, allowing greater speed and accessibility for service calls. Regarding an extra five vehicles, Bowers agreed that being proactive in this area was advisable as the time it takes to acquire and outfit vehicles is long, with the city still awaiting vehicles approved in the previous budget. The department is focused on hybrid vehicles now with electric vehicles the goal once home and city charging infrastructure and battery technology has improved; much of the GPD fleet are take-home vehicles.

Crisis Counselors

Councilmember Colin Byrd's suggestion to hire two more crisis counselors was judged a bit premature until the GPD's current system (one counselor for the GPD and three available from Greenbelt CARES) has had a chance to develop and work through its process; in the future, however, this would be a definite goal.

Bowers said that a crisis counselor would be dispatched on mental health calls paired with an officer to ensure safety. Counselors can follow up on calls to

verify that issues have been addressed to avoid future calls for service. Bowers said that 400 to 500 calls a year would fall in this area. Bowers said successful co-responder programs like the one in Anne Arundel County will be used as models.

ARPA Funds

The city has until 2024 to use the ARPA funds. Positions like the grant and diversity coordinators could be financed initially through them, giving them time to develop and stand independently. ARPA could also be used to purchase additional police vehicles.

Smaller items like payment for interns (likely a stipend or honorarium of some kind) and city-provided cellphones for park rangers were proposed.

City Attorneys

A brief discussion on the role of city attorneys at meetings was had, with George expressing that the decision to not regularly include them saved money (they are paid hourly), as very often their expertise is not needed. Legal questions can be presented to them for research.

Kudos

Jordan extolled all staff for the painstaking work done to complete the budget. Davis added that the past two years have seen staff working diligently to meet the challenges brought on by the pandemic, underscoring the need to properly compensate them in pay and resources to "make their burden a little less."

On June 6, council passed a budget of \$33,372,600 with the sole dissenting vote by Councilmember Rodney Roberts. Council also adopted the General Fund and associated funding. More detail next week.

GROUPS continued from page 7

is now commencing in-person productions on their stage at the Greenbelt Arts Center, with council praising their imaginative efforts. Some upcoming shows include a Teen Summer Shakespeare Initiative, along with a sizeable list of dramas, comedies and musicals. Councilmember Judith Davis speculated that one advantage of the pandemic was that it forced one "to think outside the box."

Black History & Culture

Lois Rosado and Leeann Irwin represented the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, sharing some of their plans for the near future, such as a June-teenth and Emancipation Day event, as well as a Chadwick Boseman Film Festival at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. They praised city staff for helping to publicize and stream some of their past efforts, with Varda calling this a successful partnership and collaboration.

Swimming

According to Tris West, Greenbelt Swim Team is frequently a conduit for swimmers to their respective school teams and local leagues. Competition is a priority, as well as embracing the diversity of their members, be it age, body shape or hairstyle. A significant rise in participation has occurred since January, with the number of swimmers up to 54, compared to 35 in the fall 2021 membership drive. West is always looking for ways to lower fees to enhance memberships, with Greenbelt residents receiving various discounts.

CHEARS

The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) has several projects

in the works, including working with the Chesapeake Intergenerational Open Seed Quest, the Earth Squad at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and continuing work at the Three Sisters Gardens. They are joining with the Penn State Extension/First Investigation of Stream Health citizen-science project, where the Earth Squad will provide data on Indian Creek. They received their final grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and must look elsewhere for future funding.

Boys and Girls Club

Orin Howard of the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club is "excited to be back" after the "long journey" out of Covid. The basketball program experienced a large turnout this year, along with two championships. Tackle football has seen a decline, with Howard introducing more "Covid-friendly" one-off sports programs like golf. The football team has been renamed the Greenbelt Gators. Varda said that the Boys and Girls Club is the city's largest user of facilities, and that, if the city were to take it on, the expense would be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There was a discussion on the somewhat degraded state and possible renovation of the city's fields, which was shared by many of the groups present at the meeting. Space is already strained and to renovate a field would mean it would be out of use for months at least. All agreed that this will be a necessity sooner rather than later.



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Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome, remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Hardwood flooring on both levels.

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City’s First Pride Festival Held in Roosevelt Center

Rainbows filled Roosevelt Center for the first Greenbelt Pride Fest on a sunny Saturday, June 4. Speakers in front of the Mother and Child statue focused on pride in finding the courage to be open about life, as well as fear about changes in legislation.

Speakers included Greenbelt Voices Rising Chair Carla Johns, Councilmember Ric Gordon, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Karen Kendra Holmes, State’s Attorney Aisha Braveboy, U.S. Congressional candidate Glenn Ivey (4th District), School Board candidate Jenni Pompei, Shaymar Higgs, State Delegate Nicole Williams, Ethan Sweep, New Carrollton Councilmember Briana Urbina, and state delegate candidate Ashanti Martinez. Music was provided by recording artist Yannick Taylor and the Pride Fest Music DJ, Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars Coach Kim.

Jordan gave a welcome on behalf of the Greenbelt City Council. Gordon spoke about how Greenbelt is a safe space for all Greenbelters to be who they want to be, and Higgs lamented how so many young Americans have committed suicide due to lack of support and understanding. In addition, Gordon recognized a young 9-year-old Greenbelter named K who was celebrating her first Pride Fest and said Greenbelt stands behind her and loves her.

Amy Hansen and Ric Gordon contributed to this report.



Pride Fest attendees study Planned Parenthood literature.

Shaymar Higgs, Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen for 2021, speaks at the event.



Craig Ostovitz and Stephanie Rizk create a heart of rainbow flags on their Lakeside lawn in celebration of Pride Month.

Farmers Market Music



The Pandemic Sisters and Dave Ukulele Band and One Guitar play at the Farmers Market. The group donated tips they received (close to \$200) to the St. Hugh Food Pantry. Group members, from left, are Jan Morrow, Laura Bonkosky, Sally Davies, Dave Meng, Judy Kendall, Rachel Canavan and Dana Phares.

Space and Time for Practice Leave Swim Team Struggling

by Emily Hahn

The Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team has lost practice time and pool space for the 2022 season at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC), according to Tristram West, swim team president, but the GAFC claims availability is at pre-pandemic levels.

The swim team learned of the decrease in lanes and practice times six days before practices began, said West in an interview. Minimum practice requirements are not being met at the present time, he explained. GAFC has allotted for the team to have four lanes max at one time for an hour and a half. The time and space given is too small, too short and not reflective of other swim teams in the surrounding area, West said. About 14 kids were unable to swim during part of the last practice due to the lack of available lanes.

West isn’t sure if there is a specific group of people rallying against the swim team, but the attempt to limit practices isn’t new. West believes that there are political reasons behind decreasing the swim team’s access to the community pools.

“Apparently, there are some ‘old people’ that don’t want the swim team to exist,” West said in a voicemail. “I’m so disgusted with these people and what they’re doing to the children in Greenbelt.”

A post on the GAFC Facebook page showed the swim team schedule and lane availability for other pool patrons. Many comments complain about lane re-

strictions and pointing fingers in speculation as to why.

“My impression of all these adjustments and small cuts to the swim team are actually the pool catering to the vocal, territorial, elderly, white community,” Jennifer Mullinax, assistant professor at University of Maryland, wrote under the Facebook post. “It’s shameful. Greenbelt is not a retirement community!”

The current availability granted to the swim team mirrors pre-Covid-19 requests, according to Recreation Director Greg Varda. Varda is also unaware of any specific groups complaining about lane accessibility due to the swim team. While the city values the swim team, it is a “delicate task” trying to keep all pool patrons satisfied with GAFC, he said.

“We can’t give them what they requested for this season, but we could give them what they have had previous seasons in the past,” said Varda.

Varda plans on meeting with the leadership of the swim team to try to better understand their needs. On behalf of the swim team, West is also discussing with GAFC how to make practices more productive for kids and coaches.

“I think that it’s worth again opening this dialogue to communicate with the community and with other people, so that we all get a better understanding of each other’s needs,” said West.

Emily Hahn is a University of Maryland journalism student and the summer intern for the News Review.

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